foreign equity holding upto 100%, on the automatic route for all minerals (except diamonds and precious stones). This covers exploration, mining, mineral processing and metallurgy. In the case of diamonds and precious stones, foreign equity upto 74% is allowed on the automatic route for both exploration and mining operations. However, proposals seeking higher than 74% foreign equity for diamonds & precious stones are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The Mines & Minerals [Development & Regulation] Act, 1957 has also been suitably amended to make it more investor friendly. The Department of Mines has been utilizing various national and international fora to publicise the liberalized FDI policy with a view to attract foreign investment into the Indian mining sector. The Government has also put in place a monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of approved FDI projects.

(c) and (d) Not for the present.

Accidents in coal mines

†4389. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mine-wise/year-wise accidents occurred in coal mines in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of workers killed in the above accidents;

(c) whether Government have given any compensation to the workers who lost their lives during the above period; if so, the number of the workers to whom compensation was given and the amount of compensation given to them;

(d) whether some of the cases related to the compensation to the workers killed in accidents are still pending for disposal; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Mines-wise and year-wise number of fatal accidents and fatalities in coal mines

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

during last three years are given in the Annexure. *(See* Appendix 195, Annexure No. 44)

(c) Coal companies pay cash compensation as per Workmen's Compensation Act to the dependents of the workers who lose their lives in the mine accidents. Government does not pay any compensation in such cases directly. The number of cases in coal PSUs where compensation has been paid due to the death of workers and the amount of such compensation paid during the last 3 years are as under:

Coal India Limited:

(Rs. In lakhs)

Year	No. of cases where compensation has been paid in case of death of workers in mine accidents	Amount paid
1999	102	163.33
2000	96	159.84
2001	96	165.41

Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL): (Rs in lakhs)

Year	No. of cases where compensation has been paid in case of death of workers in mine accidents	Amount paid
1999	26	44.52
2000	32	53.06
2001	24	55.32

(d) and (e) Pending cases which are eligible for payment of compensation as per Workmen's Compensation Act in coal PSUs alongwith the reasons therefor are given below:

Year	No. of pending eligible cases as per workmen's Compensation Act		Reasons	
	CIL	SCCL	CIL	SCCL
1999	Nil	Nil	—	—
2000	2	1	Sub-judice	Litigation Family dispute and litigation
2001	3	1	Sub-judice	

Statutory benefits to contract labourers in MCL

4390. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how many labourers are engaged in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), lb Valley and Talcher by various contractors;

(b) whether these contract labourers are getting minimum statutory benefits such as Provident Fund, ESI etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government ensure minimum statutory benefits to the labourers engaged at various coalfields across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The details of labourers engaged in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited by various contractors are given as under:—

Daily average deployment of labourers by various contractors at lb Valley field.	3332
Daily Average deployment of labourers by various Contractors at Talcher field—including MCL Head Quarters.	3422
MCL (TOTAL)	6754